



Food insecurity among Inuit women exacerbated by socioeconomic stresses and climate change

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Abstract:

OBJECTIVES: To identify and characterize the determinants of food insecurity among Inuit women. **METHODS:** A community-based study in Igloolik, Nunavut, using semi-structured interviews (n Euro Surveillance (Bulletin Européen Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin) 36) and focus groups (n Euro Surveillance (Bulletin Européen Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin) 5) with Inuit women, and key informants interviews with health professionals (n Euro Surveillance (Bulletin Européen Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin) 13). **RESULTS:** There is a high prevalence of food insecurity among Inuit females in Igloolik, with women in the study reporting skipping meals and reducing food intake on a regular basis. Food insecurity is largely transitory in nature and influenced by food affordability and budgeting; food knowledge; education and preferences; food quality and availability; absence of a full-time hunter in the household; cost of harvesting; poverty; and addiction. These determinants are operating in the context of changing livelihoods and climate-related stresses. **CONCLUSION:** Inuit women's food insecurity in Igloolik is the outcome of multiple determinants operating at different spatial-temporal scales. Climate change and external socio-economic stresses are exacerbating difficulties in obtaining sufficient food. Coping strategies currently utilized to manage food insecurity are largely reactive and short-term in nature, and could increase food system vulnerability to future stresses. Intervention by local, territorial and federal governments is required to implement, coordinate and monitor strategies to enhance women's food security, strengthen the food system, and reduce vulnerability to future stressors.

Source: Ask your librarian to help locate this item.

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker, Public

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Food/Water Security

Food/Water Security: Food Access/Distribution

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Arctic

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Non-U.S. North America

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Malnutrition/Undernutrition

Intervention:

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: Inuit

Other Vulnerable Population: Women

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale:

time period studied

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Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content